

From glowbugs@devp214.theporch.com Sun Feb 2 12:37:21 1997  
Return-Path: <glowbugs@devp214.theporch.com>  
Received: from devp214.theporch.com (devp214.theporch.com [192.150.244.22])  
by uro.theporch.com (8.8.5/AUX-3.1.1)  
with ESMTP id MAA18523 for <shimshon@theporch.com>;  
Sun, 2 Feb 1997 12:37:19 -0600 (CST)  
From: glowbugs@devp214.theporch.com  
Received: from devp214.theporch.com (localhost [127.0.0.1])  
by devp214.theporch.com (8.8.4/SCO-5.0.2) with SMTP  
id SAA05709; Sun, 2 Feb 1997 18:35:55 GMT  
Date: Sun, 2 Feb 1997 18:35:55 GMT  
Message-Id: <199702021835.SAA05709@devp214.theporch.com>  
Errors-To: ws4s@infoave.net  
Reply-To: glowbugs@devp214.theporch.com  
Originator: glowbugs@devp214.theporch.com  
Sender: glowbugs@devp214.theporch.com  
Precedence: bulk  
To: Multiple recipients of list <glowbugs@devp214.theporch.com>  
Subject: GLOWBUGS digest 434  
X-Listprocessor-Version: 6.0 -- ListProcessor by Anastasios Kotsikonas  
X-Comment: Please send list server requests to listproc@theporch.com  
Status: 0

#### GLOWBUGS Digest 434

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) Phoenix Crystals: The Update!  
by tomrice@netcom.com (Tom R. Rice)
- 2) Re: Phoenix Crystals: The Update!  
by "Brian Carling" <bry@mail1.mnsinc.com>
- 3) Crystals without holders?  
by jefffd@coriolis.com (Jeff Duntemann)
- 4) Re: Crystals without holders?  
by jefffd@coriolis.com (Jeff Duntemann)
- 5) Re: Phoenix Crystals: The Update!  
by Arthur Moe <kb7ww@aracnet.com>
- 6) Re: Crystals without holders?  
by Jeffrey Herman <jeffreyh@hawaii.edu>
- 7) Re: Crystals without holders?  
by mjsilva@ix.netcom.com (michael silva)
- 8) Crystal kits, maybe?  
by tomrice@netcom.com (Tom R. Rice)
- 9) Buzzy regen unbuzzed  
by Art Winterbauer <art@comet.ucar.edu>
- 10) Re: Crystal kits, maybe?  
by wmcshan@REX.RE.uokhsc.edu (Mike McShan)
- 11) Plans for my AES "sleeper" tubes

by mjsilva@ix.netcom.com (michael silva)  
12) Re: Buzzy regen unbuzzed  
by mjsilva@ix.netcom.com (michael silva)  
13) Re: Crystals without holders?  
by "Claton Cadmus" <aplitech@Spacestar.Net>

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Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 11:05:25 -0800 (PST)  
From: tomrice@netcom.com (Tom R. Rice)  
To: boatanchors@theporch.com (ba)  
Cc: glowbugs@theporch.com (glowbugs)  
Subject: Phoenix Crystals: The Update!  
Message-ID: <199702011905.LAA19078@netcom17.netcom.com>

Fellow Boat Anchorites & Glow Buggers:

I sent a letter to Mr. Morris with a SAP (Self-Addressed Postcard) and received the following response, mailed January 28:

"... We should be switched over and doing amateur xtals within next 30 days. Present holdup is locating HC-6 crystal cans -- haven't been able to find a source still making them in U.S. Also we will need to build up our xtal blank bank to fill orders faster, so if you all could let me know what freqs and holders you are interested in, it would help. I'll put you in file so you'll get our price list and xtal info as soon as it's ready to mail."

Personally, I don't care what holder he uses so long as it can be plugged in to some sort of socket in a ham transmitter, but y'all may differ.

I'm sending in an order for the GB and BA freqs on 40 and 80 meters, with a request for info on possible 160-meter rocks. Let's hope he's inundated with orders, which I figger is a good situation when you're starting up a new business!

It might also be a good idea to let him know some details about the oscillator circuit(s) you expect to use, as this does have some effect on the final frequency.

Here's the contact info:

John R. Morris (N0ACS ex W9LSK)

Phoenix Crystals  
1714 North Ash Street  
Nevada, Mo. 64772

phone: 1-417-667-6179 (Note: daytime phone is answered  
by message recorder. If Mr. Morris is at his shop, that's  
15 miles out from his home, with no phone!) Possibly he  
may be reached at home after 6:00 PM CST, but I expect  
US Mule is preferred.

73 de WB6BYH

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"Start off every day with a smile and get it over with." --W.C.Fields  
Tom R. Rice  
tomrice@netcom.com  
CIS: 71160,1122

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Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 14:01:58 +0000  
From: "Brian Carling" <bry@mail1.mnsinc.com>  
To: glowbugs@devp214.theporch.com  
Subject: Re: Phoenix Crystals: The Update!  
Message-ID: <199702012201.RAA10968@news2.mnsinc.com>

GREAT stuff Tom!

THANKS VERY MUCH for posting this good news!!

I wonder if he will be able to make FT-243 crystals for a reasonable  
price? It's hard to think about spendig \$12-15 each for them.

If you want to - please let him know that he can probably find out  
where to get the HC-6/U cases by contacting some of the other  
suppliers I have listed i my web site database of crystals  
suppliers at the URL address listed below.

All the best - Bry, AF4K

On 1 Feb 97 at 19:05, Tom R. Rice spoke about Phoenix Crystals: The  
Update! and said:

> Fellow Boat Anchorites & Glow Buggers:  
>  
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> Postcard) and received the following response, mailed  
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> by message recorder. If Mr. Morris is at his shop, that's  
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> may be reached at home after 6:00 PM CST, but I expect  
> US Mule is preferred.  
>  
>  
> 73 de WB6BYH  
> ---  
> "Start off every day with a smile and get it over with." --W.C.Fields  
> Tom R. Rice  
> tomrice@netcom.com  
> CIS: 71160,1122  
>  
>

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\*\*\* 73 from Radio AF4K / G3XLQ in Gaithersburg, MD USA \*  
\*\* E-mail to: bry@mnsinc.com \*  
\*\*\* See the great ham radio resources at: \*  
\*\* <http://www.mnsinc.com/bry/> \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 15:53:29 -0700  
From: jeffd@coriolis.com (Jeff Duntemann)  
To: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Subject: Crystals without holders?  
Message-ID: <1.5.4.32.19970201154607.00f579fc@165.247.88.2>

Hi gang--

In the wake of the appearance of Phoenix Crystals, it occurred to me that while NEW FT-243 packages may be unavailable, there is a multitude of FT-243 crystals out there for frequencies nowhere near the amateur bands. I have a boxful, and there is a company in CA (C&H Sales) that sells bags of surplus crystals (including many non-amateur FT-243s) for about 50c each in quantities of 100.

So...why do we necessarily need to buy the holders? Could a vendor like Phoenix just grind the crystal itself, ship it to us, and let us drop it into an available FT-243 case? The cases aren't sealed and come apart very easily. I've ground a few crystals up or down and replaced the quartz in the holder without any trouble. (Obviously you need to handle it carefully so as not to get skin oil on it, but that's not rocket science.)

Is there any reason this couldn't work?

--73--

--Jeff Duntemann KG7JF  
Scottsdale, Arizona

-----  
Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 16:30:54 -0700  
From: jeffd@coriolis.com (Jeff Duntemann)  
To: "Adam, KD6POC" <kd6poc@jps.net>  
Cc: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Subject: Re: Crystals without holders?  
Message-ID: <3.0.32.19970201162331.00ba0e40@165.247.88.2>

At 03:20 PM 2/1/97 -0800, you wrote:

>Dear Jeff,  
>  
>How do you grind a crystal down?

I knew that was trouble the moment I clicked on SEND. What I meant was that I pulled the quartz and rubbed a little pencil lead on it to pull it down a little. Worked about half the time. Not sure what else to call it; "pencilled it down"? "leaded it down"?

I'm supposed to be good at words; gotta be more careful.

But I think y'awl knew what I meant...

--73--

--Jeff Duntemann KG7JF  
Scottsdale, Arizona

-----  
Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 16:08:10 -0800  
From: Arthur Moe <kb7ww@aracnet.com>  
To: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Subject: Re: Phoenix Crystals: The Update!  
Message-ID: <199702020008.QAA19855@trapdoor.aracnet.com>

>  
>I wonder if he will be able to make FT-243 crystals for a reasonable  
>price? It's hard to think about spendig \$12-15 each for them.  
>

Bry and the GB gang,

If my brain is working today, I seem to think my first rock cost me \$3.95 from PR and that was more than I made in one hour's work. I don't think that 12 to 15 dollars would be out of line for good FT 243 rocks, in todays inflated money.

73's es keep them bruning.  
art  
KB7WW

..-.-

AT THE END OF THE OREGON TRAIL

Arthur Moe	ARRL - Life
A.R.S. KB7WW	SMIRK #733
QTH: Oregon City, Or.	QRP ARCI
kb7ww@aracnet.com	QRP-1 #290

-----  
Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 14:21:43 -1000  
From: Jeffrey Herman <jeffreyh@hawaii.edu>  
To: Jeff Duntemann <jeffd@coriolis.com>  
Subject: Re: Crystals without holders?  
Message-ID: <Pine.GS0.3.93.970201142013.11992A-100000@uhunix3>

On Sat, 1 Feb 1997, Jeff Duntemann wrote:  
> easily. I've ground a few crystals up or down and replaced the quartz in

We all know about grinding them up in freq'y, but how do you grind  
them down????? A bit of solder, or pencil lead can bring them down,  
but not very much...

73,  
Jeff KH2PZ

-----  
Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 18:36:09 -0600 (CST)  
From: mjsilva@ix.netcom.com (michael silva)  
To: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Subject: Re: Crystals without holders?  
Message-ID: <199702020036.SAA00302@dfw-ix12.ix.netcom.com>

>So...why do we necessarily need to buy the holders? Could a vendor  
like  
>Phoenix just grind the crystal itself, ship it to us, and let us drop  
it  
>into an available FT-243 case?

Sounds like a fine idea to me (also the owner of some "useless"  
FT-243s...). The supplier might be concerned about complaints that a  
given crystal he supplied was off by 2 kHz, or didn't quite fit the  
user's holder, etc, but providing a suitable warranty (or non-warranty)  
could be worked out to protect the supplier I know I'd buy some. In

fact, everybody who thinks this is a good idea should write to them and ask/beg. Tell them how much labor it will save them :)

73,  
Mike, KK6GM

-----  
Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 17:40:04 -0800 (PST)  
From: tomrice@netcom.com (Tom R. Rice)  
To: boatanchors@theporch.com (ba)  
Cc: glowbugs@theporch.com (glowbugs)  
Subject: Crystal kits, maybe?  
Message-ID: <199702020140.RAA26147@netcom8.netcom.com>

>  
> In the wake of the appearance of Phoenix Crystals, it occurred to me that  
> while NEW FT-243 packages may be unavailable, there is a multitude of FT-243  
> crystals out there for frequencies nowhere near the amateur bands. I have a

<snip, snip>

> So...why do we necessarily need to buy the holders? Could a vendor like  
> Phoenix just grind the crystal itself, ship it to us, and let us drop it  
> into an available FT-243 case? The cases aren't sealed and come apart very

You just might have something there. The gentleman has said that plated xtals are more stable and reliable than "clamped" (a la FT-243) xtals, so he was focusing on that style. Given his current sourcing problems, he might be interested in offering a "crystal kit", wherein he could furnish a rock ground (more or less) to a specified freq, to be installed in your holder.

I doubt that he could be very precise about the resulting freq, however, given that he couldn't control the circuit or the holder. Mebbe we could send him the holder and thus get better freq control?

I also am going to ask him if, given his lack of xtal blanks, he could use the bags of surplus ? mc surplus rocks (larger than FT-243) I have hoarded over the years with xtal filter thoughts in mind. Could we send him several "recyclable" surplus rocks and get one usable one back for a modest fee?

The one problem is that we seem to want him to work for



the minimum wage! I really don't think that 12-15 bucks for a custom freq rock is unreasonable, considering the amount of labor involved. Perhaps we'd best wait for his info sheet/price list!

Just another opinion.....

73 de WB6BYH

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"Start off every day with a smile and get it over with." --W.C.Fields  
Tom R. Rice  
tomrice@netcom.com  
CIS: 71160,1122

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Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 19:24:47 -0700 (MST)  
From: Art Winterbauer <art@comet.ucar.edu>  
To: glowbugs <glowbugs@theporch.com>  
Subject: Buzzy regen unbuzzed  
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.95.970201192103.29097A-100000@spike>

I have communicated with several members of this group regarding the buzzy regen (aka reluctant regen): cw signals were raspy or "whispery".

Well, I was moving some stuff around the room, and I plugged the regen into a different wall outlet. Voila, perfect signals. Plugged it back into the original power strip, buzzy signals again.

The power strip is just one of those ordinary fused ones with the glowing "on" switch that burned out some years ago.

Art WA50ES  
73!

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Date: Thu, 1 Feb 1996 23:37:47 -0600  
From: wmcshan@REX.RE.uokhsc.edu (Mike McShan)  
To: glowbugs@devp214.theporch.com  
Subject: Re: Crystal kits, maybe?  
Message-ID: <v01540b01ad3752c45cda@[157.142.8.156]>

(snip)

> The one problem is that we seem to want him to work for  
> the minimum wage! I really don't think that 12-15 bucks  
> for a custom freq rock is unreasonable, considering the  
> amount of labor involved. Perhaps we'd best wait for his  
> info sheet/price list!  
>  
> Just another opinion.....  
>  
> 73 de WB6BYH

I have to agree with you. I just bought some crystals from ICM here in OKC for \$10 a piece + tax for my Drake 2B. \$12 - \$15 seems about right for custom frequencies.

Mike N5JKY  
Edmond, OK

-----  
Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 22:32:15 -0800  
From: mjsilva@ix.netcom.com (michael silva)  
To: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Subject: Plans for my AES "sleeper" tubes  
Message-ID: <199702020632.WAA28651@dfw-ix2.ix.netcom.com>

I've received my latest AES order complete with assorted 50 cent "I'll use these someday" tubes, and it came to me today what to do with them. We have a local park where my youngsters like to drive their trikes and there's this picnic table there on a grassy rise among a few trees, and every time we go past it I find myself wanting to sit there with a little glowbug rig and an antenna tossed into the trees. Well, with the help of the latest AES flyer it's gonna happen.

As of tonight the TX will consist of a 5EA8 (osc. and buffer) driving a 6AQ5, while the RX will be a regen consisting of a 5EA8 (untuned RF amp and possible future heterodyne osc.), another 5EA8 (pentode detector and possible triode audio stage) and a 6AN5 audio stage. While this may seem like overkill, I've chosen this lineup because (a) I want to experiment with a tuned RF amp vs. a heterodyne oscillator setup (one tuned circuit switched or soldered to one or the other, with another tracking one driving the detector grid), and (b) it gives me a 12 v. heater lineup (the 6AQ5 and 6AN5 in series, and the 3 5EA8s in series (just squeaks in within the 10% allowed heater voltage tolerance). That way I "only" need to get some HV from a 12v source -- shouldn't be too difficult, if I'm allowed to use transistors ;)

Well, that's all I know for now. Total tube cost is \$2.35 including 35 cents for some used 6AQ5s. Not that I expect this to be a dirt-cheap project, but it'll be nice to put some of those AES throw-aways to good use.

73,  
Mike, KK6GM

-----  
Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 22:35:35 -0800  
From: mjsilva@ix.netcom.com (michael silva)  
To: glowbugs@theporch.com  
Subject: Re: Buzzy regen unbuzzed  
Message-ID: <199702020635.WAA22063@dfw-ix6.ix.netcom.com>

>Well, I was moving some stuff around the room, and I plugged the regen  
>into a different wall outlet. Voila, perfect signals. Plugged it  
>back into the original power strip, buzzy signals again.

Gee, I feel like the whole group has given birth to a baby (with Art doing all the work and the rest of us just pacing around). Great news, Art!

73,  
Mike, KK6GM

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Date: Sun, 2 Feb 1997 07:55:53 -0600  
From: "Claton Cadmus" <aplitech@Spacestar.Net>  
To: "Glowbugs" <glowbugs@theporch.com>  
Subject: Re: Crystals without holders?  
Message-ID: <199702021356.HAA29502@Spacestar.Net>

: So...why do we necessarily need to buy the holders? Could a vendor like  
: Phoenix just grind the crystal itself, ship it to us, and let us drop it  
: into an available FT-243 case?

I think someone should contact Phoenix Crystals and see if he would be willing to accept a customers used FT-243 holders and re-crystal them to your desired frequency. That way he has the holder to work with and can control all the quality aspects as well as inspect the holder for it's suitability. If I were him I would be more apt to say yes to this scenario then shipping crystal blanks for the user to install in an

unknown holder. Besides, he then gets to keep the old FT-243 blank which he may be able to re-cycle! This could be a great program to really reduce the costs of FT-243's.

Food for thought!

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73 de KA0GKC Claton Cadmus

E-mail cla@spacestar.net

TCP/IP ka0gkc@ka0gkc.ampr.org

Ask me about the Minnesota QRP Society!

<http://www.spacestar.net/users/aplitech/mnqrp/>

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End of GLOWBUGS Digest 434

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